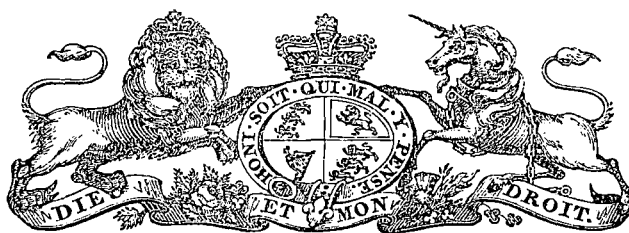


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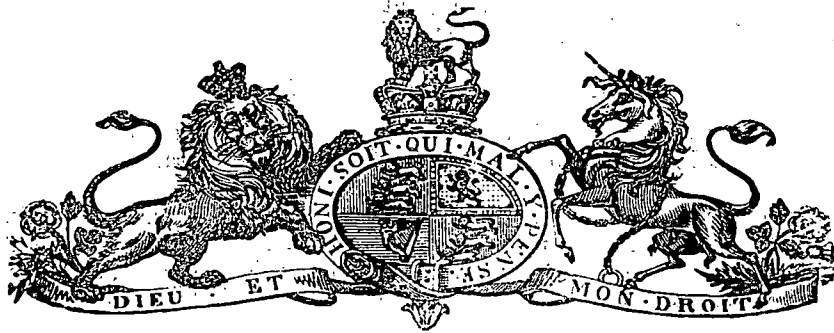
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CROWN LANDS:

AGRICULTURAL SELECTIONS BETWEEN ELLENDALE AND THE FLORENTINE:
REPORT OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR.

Return to Order, Legislative Council, September 3, 1886. (Mr. Fysh.)

Laid upon the Table by Dr. Agnew, and ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, October 1, 1886.



REPORT on Land between Ellendale and the Florentine River ; being Extracts from Mr. District Surveyor Frodsham's Annual Reports to the Crown Lands Office.

THE land in the vicinity of Russell's Falls River I have recently visited, and forward herewith sketch plan showing heights taken along track.

Leaving the cart-road the track for the first 3 miles passes over very poor gravelly soil, heavily timbered with stringy-bark, and covered with native hop; near the third mile there is a small patch of good land fronting on the river, in all about 200 acres. From this point very poor land is met with until the next creek is reached, along the sides of which there is some first-class land heavily timbered with gum and covered with a thick pear-tree, musk, and fern scrub. After leaving this and passing over some very steep spurs through barren land, we came upon a large creek on which there is to be found 800 acres of very good land, heavily timbered with gum. From this to the eighth mile (with the exception of about 300 acres along a creek) the land is of a very poor description.

From the eighth mile fronting along the river, there seems to be an almost unlimited extent of first-class land heavily timbered with gum-top, myrtle, and sassafras. I followed along the river for about 4 miles through this description of country. I then altered my course to south for about 2 miles, and then north-east to cut through the block; all through on both bearings I found the same class of good land. I estimate I have been over 5000 acres of splendid land, and I believe there is three times this amount which I had not time to go through.

I passed on this block some of the largest gum-top timber I have ever seen; some of the trees I estimated to measure a chain in circumference.

I would suggest that a road be cut into this locality. I believe a very good line could be obtained near the river. The present track could not be improved for this purpose, as it crosses a succession of spurs and gullies.

If a cart-road is opened into this land I hope in a few years to see a flourishing settlement, as, besides a large area of good land, there is an unlimited supply of splendid timber.

Traces of gold have been discovered about six miles beyond this land, but the country has not yet been properly prospected to test its value.

In the vicinity of the Florentine River a large area of first-class land is to be found, but the distance from market has hitherto prevented anyone from settling upon it. Splendid limestone exists in this locality.

The localities worthy of the attention of intending selectors are the Florentine Valley, vicinity of Russell's Falls River, Parish of Uxbridge, and vicinity of Mount Lloyd.

The Florentine Valley is distant about 20 miles from Hamilton. It is reached by a very good road, and is traversed by the Florentine River, a tributary of the Derwent. The land is tolerably level, and consists of deep alluvial soil. Much limestone exists in the vicinity. This tract of country is well adapted for the growth of grain, and probably hops and fruit. The distance from market has hitherto prevented the land from being taken up, but when railway communication is extended to Hamilton there is no doubt it will be speedily disposed of.

Vicinity of Russell's Falls River.

This locality is well worth the attention of selectors, as they will here find considerable area of first-class land, only about 10 miles from the Railway Station at Glenora.

This land is situated about 20 miles from New Norfolk. Thirteen miles of the distance is along a good macadamised road; the next four miles is a fair bush road; the remaining distance being along a blazed track. The Russell's Falls River runs through this good land, and it is well watered by numerous tributary creeks. It is comparatively level, heavily timbered with gum, myrtle, and tree ferns. Some of the timber is extremely large, measuring a chain in circumference.

There are at least 10,000 acres of first-class land, well adapted for settlement.